

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/717,426

Examiner

Jeanne-Marguerite Goodwin

Applicant(s)

NAKAMIYA ET AL.

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Preliminary Amendment filed 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 November 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

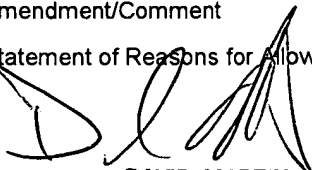
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3 ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No. 2/12/01; 6/02/03; 4/10/28/03
- 4 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

- 5 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____
- 7 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9 ☐ Other


DAVID MARTIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 has been found to be allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an electronic timepiece comprising a discharge control unit for starting discharge of the battery when an external input signal ordering start of discharge start is input with the external input unit, and for stopping the discharge when comparison result by a comparator unit satisfies a discharge stop condition, in combination with the remaining limitations of said claim.

Claim 9 has been found to be allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an electronic timepiece comprising a charging state judge unit for controlling the drive unit to drive the display section into a first display state when a predetermined external signal is received by the external input unit, and for controlling the drive unit to drive the display section into a second display state which is different from the first displaying state when the comparison result by the comparator unit becomes satisfying to a predetermined condition, in combination with the remaining limitations of said claim.

Claims 11 and 21 have been found to be allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or suggest a check method for an electronic timepiece comprising a first step of controlling the voltage stored on the battery by giving the first external input signal from the external input unit and thereby starting the operation of the discharge control unit; and a second step of judging the voltage stored on the battery or a voltage corresponding to the voltage from the displaying state of the displaying section by giving the second external input signal to the external input unit and thereby starting the operation of the charging state judge unit, in combination with the remaining limitations of said claim.

Claims 13 and 22 have been found to be allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or suggest a check method for an electronic timepiece comprising a first step of

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starting the operation of the discharge control unit, and controlling the voltage of the stored electricity of the battery by using an input of a first prescribed external signal as a start condition; a second step of starting the operation of the charging state judge unit, and controlling the displaying state of the displaying section in accordance with the voltage of the stored electricity of the battery by using an input of a second prescribed external signal as a start condition; and a third step of starting the operation of the drive trouble judge unit, and controlling the displaying state of the displaying section based on the detection result of the drive trouble of the electric motor by using an input of a third prescribed external signal as a start condition, in combination with the remaining limitations of said claim.

Claim 15 has been found to be allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an electronic timepiece comprising a charge state judge unit for controlling a notification state of the notification unit to a first state when a predetermined external signal with the external input unit is input, and for controlling a notification state of the notification unit to a second state which is different from the first notification state when after the first state the battery unit is charged and the comparison result by the comparator unit becomes satisfying to a predetermined condition, in combination with the remaining limitations of said claim.

Claim 16 has been found to be allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an electronic timepiece comprising a discharge control unit for starting discharge when a predetermined external input is input with the external input unit, and for stopping discharge from the battery when the comparison result by the comparator unit becomes satisfying to a discharge stop condition; and a charge state judge unit for controlling a notification state of the notification unit to a first state when a predetermined external signal with the external input unit is input, and for controlling a notification state of the notification unit to a second state which is different from the first notification state when after the first state the

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battery unit is charged and the comparison result by the comparator unit becomes satisfying to a predetermined condition, in combination with the remaining limitations of said claim.

Claim 18 has been found to be allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an electronic timepiece comprising a discharge control unit for starting discharge when a predetermined external input is input with the external input unit, and for stopping discharge from the battery when the comparison result by the comparator unit becomes satisfying to a discharge stop condition; a charge state judge unit for controlling a notification state of the notification unit to a first state when a predetermined external signal with the external input unit is input, and for controlling a notification state of the notification unit to a second state which is different from the first notification state when after the first state the battery unit is charged and the comparison result by the comparator unit becomes satisfying to a predetermined condition; a trouble detecting unit for detecting a drive trouble of the electric motor; and a drive trouble judge unit for controlling a notification state of the notification unit into a third state when a predetermined external signal is input with the external input unit, and for controlling the notification state of the notification unit into a fourth state which is different from the third state when a drive trouble is detected by the trouble detecting unit, in combination with the remaining limitations of said claim.

Claim 19 has been found to be allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an electronic timepiece comprising a trouble detecting unit for detecting a drive trouble of the electric motor; and a drive trouble judge unit for controlling a notification state of the notification unit into a first state when a predetermined external signal is input with the external input unit, and for controlling the notification state of the notification unit into a second state which is different from the first state when a drive trouble is detected by the trouble detecting unit, in combination with the remaining limitations of said claim.

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Claims 20 and 23 have been found to be allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an electronic timepiece comprising a drive unit for driving the displaying section by use of electrical power stored in the battery; a trouble detecting unit for detecting a drive trouble of the electric motor; and a drive trouble judge unit for controlling a display state of the displaying section into a first state when a predetermined external signal is input with the external input unit, and for controlling the display state of the displaying section into a second state which is different from the first state when a drive trouble is detected by the trouble detecting unit, in combination with the remaining limitations of said claim.

Claim 24 has been found to be allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an electronic timepiece comprising a charge state judge unit for controlling a notification state of the notification unit to a first state when a predetermined external signal with the external input unit is input, and for controlling a notification state of the notification unit to a second state which is different from the first notification state when after the first state the battery unit is charged and the comparison result by the comparator unit becomes satisfying to a predetermined condition; a trouble detecting unit for detecting a drive trouble of the electric motor; and a drive trouble judge unit for controlling a notification state of the notification unit into a third state when a predetermined external signal is input with the external input unit, and for controlling the notification state of the notification unit into a fourth state which is different from the third state when a drive trouble is detected by the trouble detecting unit, in combination with the remaining limitations of said claim.

Claims 2-8, 10, 12, 14 and 17 have been found to be allowable as being dependent upon the allowable claims 1, 9, 11, 13 and 16, respectively.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeanne-Marguerite Goodwin whose telephone number is (703) 305-0264.

Jeanne-Marguerite Goodwin
Patent Examiner
01/26/04

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